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Adoption

Becoming an adoptive parent is a tremendous commitment and a great joy. If you are interested in exploring adoption, you may be looking for resources on domestic adoption (including adoption from foster care) or international adoption. You may also be interested in the tax benefits of adoption and laws related to adoption.

If you were adopted as a child, you may be interested in finding information about birth and adoption records.

The US Department of Health and Human Services web page has information that may be helpful to you. If you experience difficulty in obtaining federal documents for your adopted child, Congressman Akin may be able to assist you. If you need assistance with a Missouri government agency, your member of the Missouri General Assembly may be able to help you. Congressman Akin's office cannot help you find a child to adopt, assist you in finding your birth family or assist you in finding a placement for your child.

[Child Welfare Information Gateway - Adoption](#)

[Obtaining Documents for Your Internationally Adopted Child](#)

[Funding Your Adoption](#)

[Missouri Department of Social Services](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin with your documents](#)

[Contact my State Legislators for help](#)

[Art Competition](#)

The 2nd District participates in the annual Congressional Art Competition for high school students.

Birth Certificates

You'll need a birth certificate to get a passport or other official documents. Only the state where you were born can give you an official copy of your birth certificate. If you were born in Missouri, you'll need to contact the local Public Health Department in the area where you were born. If you were born in another state, you'll need to contact the appropriate office in that state. Some Web-based companies will help you expedite your application. If you were born overseas, you'll need to contact the embassy or consulate of the country you were born in. In some cases, Congressman Akin may be able to help you if you were born overseas as an American citizen and your birth was registered with the American embassy there.

[Missouri Bureau of Vital Records](#)

[List of Foreign Embassies](#)

[Help with American Embassy-registered births](#)

Child Support Issues

If you or your children are owed money by a non-custodial parent, there are government agencies who are prepared to help you. If you and the non-custodial parent both live in Missouri, however, the federal government doesn't have the authority to get involved. That means Congressman Akin doesn't have the authority either, but we can refer you to the right people. If the non-custodial parent lives in another state Congressman Akin can help you. Likewise, if the non-custodial parent is serving in the military, Congressman Akin can help you.

[The non-custodial parent lives in Missouri](#)

[The non-custodial parent lives in another state or serves in the military](#)

[Congratulatory Letters](#)

Our office is pleased to send congratulatory letters under certain circumstances.

Disability Benefits

If you are disabled, you may qualify for assistance from the federal government. Disability benefits are administered by the Social Security Administration. To apply, you will need to go to your local Social Security office and file an application. If you have already applied and need additional help from Congressman Akin, let us know and we'll do whatever we can.

[Social Security Administration Website](#)

[Find the nearest Social Security office](#)

[Help with your disability application](#)

Drivers Licenses

Driver's licenses are issued by the State of Missouri. Congressman Akin does not have the authority to help with issues involving a driver's license.

[Contact your state legislators for help](#)

Eagle Scout Certificates

Request a certificate of recognition through my office.

Employment Discrimination

Unfair discrimination based on a person's race, color, or religion, gender, or national origin is illegal in America, with only a few narrow exceptions. Women, disabled people, and other

groups also have certain protections against unfair discrimination under federal law. The federal government, the largest employer in America, also has its own internal rules about discrimination. If you believe you have been discriminated against in a way that is against the law, Congressman Akin may be able to help you.

[Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Website](#)

[Help with your discrimination issue](#)

Employment Opportunities

The U.S. government is the largest employer in America, with opportunities in just about every field imaginable, ranging from accountants to park rangers. Congressman Akin can't get you a job. It's against the law for a member of Congress to attempt to force a federal agency to give an applicant special treatment.

[Visit USAJobs.gov to find employment opportunities](#)

Family & Medical Leave

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) allows many people to take up to 12 unpaid weeks off from work in a year to care for a newborn or sick family member. The Department of Labor

has information on its Web site about FMLA's provisions. You can also contact Congressman Akin's St. Louis office for help if you think your employer isn't complying with the law.

[FMLA information from the Department of Labor](#)

[Help with your FMLA related dispute](#)

Federal Disaster Assistance

The federal government has an agency to help people facing disasters like earthquakes and droughts. Once the President has declared a disaster in a certain area, government assistance becomes available to people in that area if they qualify. If a federal disaster has been declared in your area, you can contact Congressman Akin's office for help following up on your application for assistance.

[Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Assistance website](#)

[Help with your disaster relief application](#)

Federal Employee Issues

If you are a federal worker and have a question or concern regarding your employment, your first resource should be the human resources office of the agency you work for. The Office of Personnel Management and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission may also be able

to be of assistance. If you are having trouble getting the help you need, Congressman Akin's office may be able to work with you to resolve your issue.

[Equal Employment Opportunity Commission website](#)

[Office of Personnel Management website](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

[Flag Purchases](#)

American flags are available through Congressman Akin's office and, for an extra fee, you can order a flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Flood Insurance

If you live in or near a floodplain, you may be required to purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. The first place to go for answers about this is your local government. If you have a problem with the federal government, Congressman Akin's office may be able to help you.

[Local Government resources](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Food Assistance

If you are in need of temporary assistance with food for yourself or your family, you may qualify for federal food stamp benefits, administered by the Missouri Department of Social Services. If you need help dealing with the Missouri DSS, your state legislators may be able to assist you. The St. Louis Area Food Bank is also able to connect you with local non-profit food pantries.

[Food Stamp Program - MO DSS](#)

[Contact your State Legislators for Help](#)

Grant Applications

The federal government offers grants to support many different enterprises, from policing to academic research. If you have applied for a grant, Congressman Akin can help you by checking its status; however, it is against the law for him to try to get your grant funded. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is an on-line directory of virtually every grant offered by the federal government. Federal Funds Express contains information for grant applicants, including businesses, students, institutions and not-for-profit organizations. If you need more information about how to apply for a grant, please contact my St. Louis district office.

[Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#)

[Federal Funds Express](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Home Buying Assistance

The federal government has programs to help you buy a home, especially for the first time. If you'd like more information about these programs, visit the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) website. If you have a dispute with HUD or another government agency you've been working with, Congressman Akin's office may be able to help.

[HUD homebuying portal](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Housing Assistance

If you are having problems affording a rental home, or if you are homeless, the federal government has programs that may benefit you. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's website has a page for renters. It includes information on your rights, advice on planning ahead, and information on assistance that may be available to you. If you have more questions, Congressman Akin's office may be able to assist you.

[HUD rental assistance webpage](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Immigration Problems

The United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has a huge backlog of work and applicants face long waiting times. If you're waiting for a visa application to be approved or applying to become an American citizen, you may need assistance at some point. Congressman Akin can check on the status of your applications and help you if you think the USCIS has made a mistake. However, even Congressman Akin is usually not able to expedite your application. You can always check the status of your case on the USCIS website.

The USCIS field office that serves our area is located at:

DHS - USCIS

Robert A. Young Federal Building

1222 Spruce Street, Room 2.205

Saint Louis, MO 63103-2815

However, in order to visit the field office, you must have an appointment scheduled by USCIS, or you must schedule an [INFOPASS](#) appointment, on the USCIS website.

[USCIS website](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

[Internships](#)

Congressman Akin offers college level internships in his St. Louis and Washington, DC offices.

IRS Disputes

The federal tax code is long, complicated, and constantly changing. Taxes are also higher and more burdensome than they should be. Paying your taxes can be difficult, and correcting mistakes can be even harder. Congressman Akin may be able to help you in some types of disputes with the IRS.

[IRS website](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Junk Mail, Telemarketers & Spam

Excessive junk mail, telemarketing calls, and unsolicited email advertisements ("spam") are annoying and waste time. The Postal Service, the phone company, and your Internet service provider cannot tell advertisers to stop contacting you. Neither can Congressman Akin. However, the Direct Marketing Association has a program to help you cut back on unwanted junk mail, phone calls, and E-mail. The Postal Service also encourages you to exercise your right to control mail delivery by marking unopened mail "refused" and returning to the post office. You can also direct most telemarketers to remove you from their list through the national Do Not Call registry. In addition, Missouri and many other states have laws against spamming. Please note that laws against spamming do not generally protect you from non-profit, polling or political solicitations. Some spam is fraudulent and can be reported to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center. Other spam carries viruses that can damage your computer or steal your personal information. The Federal Trade Commission has information to help you protect yourself online.

[Direct Marketing Association's Consumer Choice website](#)

[National Do Not Call Registry](#)

[Internet Crime Complaint Center](#)

[Federal Trade Commission's SPAM website](#)

[Federal Trade Commissions's OnGuardOnline website](#)

Mail Fraud & Pornography

If you would like to report suspected mail fraud, or have received pornography in the mail and want to make sure it doesn't happen again, the Postal Service will help you. Information on what to do is available on the Postal Service website.

[Report Mail Fraud](#)

Stop Sexually Oriented Mail - [Information](#) - [USPS Form](#) (Requires [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#))

Medicare / Medicaid

Every American senior is entitled to health insurance through Medicare. The program isn't free, though, and you'll need to do certain things to sign up (*before* reaching retirement age) and get the benefits you are entitled to. The program is run by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and administered locally by your Social Security office. To report Medicare fraud, please contact the CMS. If you need assistance resolving a dispute with Medicare, Congressman Akin may be able to help.

Medicaid is administered through the State of Missouri. Contact Missouri HealthNet or your state representative for assistance.

[Medicare.gov website](#)

[Report Medicare Fraud](#)

[Missouri HealthNet](#)

[Find my state representative](#)

[Get help with my Medicare dispute](#)

[**Military Accademy Appointments**](#)

Congressman Akin makes academy nominations for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Marines. Please note that no nomination is required for the [Coast Guard Academy](#) .

Military Service Issues

If you are in uniform, Congressman Akin encourages you to follow the chain of command in dealing with issues pertaining to your enlistment or commission. Likewise, if you are the parent or spouse of someone who has concerns about their service, Congressman Akin advises you to encourage your loved one to first address their concerns through the chain of command. Should you request assistance from Congressman Akin, he or his staff will be happy to help you

in any way appropriate.

[Help from Congressman Akin's Office](#)

Military Service Medals

If you are a veteran who earned a medal but never received it, or received a medal but lost it, you may apply to the appropriate service branch for the medal in question. You may also apply for a replacement copy of your service record (DD-214). Detailed information on how to do this is available at the National Archives and Records Administration's Web site. Processing time is slow, averaging 14 to 16 weeks. If you would like Congressman Akin to check on your application or to help you in some other way, he and his staff will be happy to do what they can.

[National Personnel Records Center website](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's Office](#)

Page Program (Congressional)

Congressman Akin is not currently eligible to nominate a page.

[Passports](#)

The State Department advises travelers to obtain a passport before booking non-refundable foreign travel. Congressman Akin's office may be able to check on the status of your passport or help expedite your passport in some circumstances.

Pension Benefits

If you have a problem regarding your pension, the federal government may be able to assist you. For most people, the Employee Benefits Security Administration is the right agency to contact. If you are a federal government employee or retiree, you'll need to contact the Office of Personnel Management. If you have already contacted one of these agencies, and would like assistance in getting a response to your inquiry, Congressman Akin office may be able to help you.

[Employee Benefits Security Administration website](#)

[Office of Personnel Management website](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Postal Service Problems

The United States Postal Service (USPS) is a quasi-independent agency of the federal government. The postmaster at your local post office can help you with most issues. If you have a concern you would like Congressman Akin to help you address, he and his staff will be happy to work with you. The USPS Web site can answer most of your questions and includes a search engine for finding post offices and their phone numbers.

[USPS website](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Public Transportation

Metro St. Louis is the local public transportation network, funded with a mixture federal, state (MO & IL), and local tax dollars. It operates MetroLink light rail, MetroBus, and Metro Call-A-Ride. Metro also oversees the operations of the St. Louis Downtown Airport and the Gateway Arch Transportation System, Riverboats and Parking Facility. Congressman Akin does not have input into the operations of Metro St. Louis. Amtrak also operates a train along the river between St. Louis & Kansas City.

[Metro StLouis website](#)

[Amtrak Missouri River Runner](#)

Road Problems

While the federal government provides some funds for road construction and repair, roads are the responsibility of state and local (municipal) governments. The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) handles most transportation planning, construction, and maintenance issues. Generally speaking, if your issue concerns an interstate highway (e.g, I-64), a U.S. Route (e.g., Route 61), or a Missouri Route (e.g., Route 79), you will need help from the State of Missouri. If your issue concerns the street you live on or another smaller road, you will probably need help from your municipal (township, county, or city) government.

[MoDOT website](#)

[MoDOT bridge revitalization project](#)

[MoDOT traveler information](#)

[Contact my state legislators for help](#)

[Find my local government](#)

Small Business Issues

Small business owners encounter and overcome many obstacles. As entrepreneurs and job creators, they are the backbone of a strong economy. Congressman Akin and his staff are eager to assist small business owners in dealing with the federal government. The US Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Missouri Small Business Advocacy Center also have many resources for small business owners. The US Citizenship and Immigration Service

operates E-verify, a program to help you verify the legal status of potential employees.

[SBA website](#)

[MO Small Business Advocacy Center](#)

[USCIS - E-verify Center](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's Office](#)

Social Security

Virtually every American contributes to Social Security throughout their life, and then relies on it to help them retire. If you are preparing to retire or have general questions, there is a Social Security office near you that is prepared to help you. If you are having trouble with Social Security and would like to ask Congressman Akin to assist you, he and his staff will be help you however possible.

Our local Social Security office is located in Fenton, across from the WalMart, and can assist with most social security issues.

Social Security

650 Gravois Bluffs

Fenton MO 63026

Hours: 9AM - 4PM

[Social Security Administration website](#)

[Find local Social Security office](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's Office](#)

Student Financial Aid

The federal government has programs to help students afford college. The best source for advice and information is the financial aid office at the school you are applying to. All applicants for financial aid will need to complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. The U.S. Department of Education and FinAid.org have great online resources. If you have a problem pertaining to a federal student aid program, Congressman Akin and his staff will assist you however possible.

[Department of Education website](#)

[Direct Consolidation Loans](#)

[FinAid.org](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's Office](#)

Tax Problems

If you are having a problem with your taxes, Congressman Akin's staff may be able to help you or direct you to someone who can.

[IRS website](#)

[Missouri Dept. of Revenue](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Tours

Washington, DC is one of America's most popular tourist destinations. Please contact Congressman Akin's Washington office for help in planning tours of many popular attractions. Due to high demand and limited space for White House tours, it is best to submit requests as early as possible (up to six months in advance).

Transportation Issues

The federal government is involved directly or indirectly with planning, regulating and funding over-the-road, train, boat, and plane transportation. In some cases, as with highways, the federal government regulates some things and helps with funding, while primary responsibility for the roads lies with state and local government. In other cases, as with air travel, the federal government has more direct authority. If you would like help with a transportation issue, Congressman Akin can either help you or direct you to someone who can.

[Amtrak website](#)

[Department of Transportation website](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

Unemployment Compensation

If you are unemployed, you may qualify for temporary unemployment compensation. This program is administered by the State of Missouri. If you are having trouble getting your unemployment compensation, your state representatives may be able to help you.

[Missouri Department of Labor website](#) (file a claim)

[U.S. Department of Labor elaws](#)

[Find help with unemployment compensation](#)

[Veterans Benefits](#)

As an Army veteran and the father of two Marines, Congressman Akin knows the debt America owes to those who serve. The federal government has many programs to help veterans. If you need Congressman Akin's assistance resolving an issue with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or another agency, he and his staff will do all they can to help.

Voting

Local election authorities manage voter registration and election day procedures under the direction of the Missouri Secretary of State. If you need assistance resolving a voting issue in Missouri, please contact your local election authority or your state representative in Jefferson City.

[VOTE Missouri website](#)

[Contact my state representative for help](#)

Workers' Compensation

If you have been injured on the job, you may be entitled to workers compensation. Unless you are a federal government employee, however, you will need to work with the State of Missouri and not the federal government. If you are a federal employee, you will need to apply for benefits through a federal office. Information for federal employees is available from the Office of Workers Compensation Programs. If you have applied for federal benefits and are encountering problems, Congressman Akin and his staff will be happy to try to help you.

[Department of Labor elaws](#)

[Office of Worker's Compensation Programs](#)

[I don't work for the federal government](#)

[Help from Congressman Akin's office](#)

